

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 4, 9 and 12 with the following amended claims.

4(Amended). RT assay kit according to claim 1, wherein the assay components are selected from the group consisting of the buffers Tris and Hepes, pH $\approx$ 7-8, the divalent metal ions Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup>, the chelators ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and ethylene glycol-bis( $\beta$ -aminoethyl ether) N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid (EGTA) and, the polyamines spermine and spermidine, the Rnase inhibitors heparin sulfate and dextran sulfate, the reducing agents dithiothreitol (DTT), dithioerythritol (DTE), and glutathione, the salts NaCl and KCl, the stabilizing agents newborn calf serum (NCS) and bovine serum albumin (BSA), the detergents Tween 20 and Triton X-100, the deoxynucleotide triphosphate BrdUTP, the primer oligo dT, and the protective agent agents ATP, GTP and CTP.

Please delete claims 5-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

9(Amended). Method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of RT activity in a biological sample comprising the steps of using and following the written instructions for the RT assay kit according to claim 1 for the determination of the RT activity in the biological sample.

12(Amended). Method according to claim 9 followed by evaluation of the status of a RT activity related disorder or disease based on the result of the analysis of the RT activity.